Governments. In order to assist the state Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme was introduced in May, 1978. Under the Scheme, rehabilitation assistance is provided @ Rs.20,000/- per bonded labourer which is equally shared by Central and State Government.

Under the directions of Prime Minister's Office, a Special Group under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Labour & Employment) was constituted to review and monitor the Implementation of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The Special Group has held 16 meetings in different regions.

As per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the National Human Rights Commission is also monitoring the implementation of the Act and holding Workshops in different States.

Specific policy intervention programme

2833. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently launched/proposes to launch a specific policy intervention programme for districts with chronic unemployment and industrial under-development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTRIDITYA MADHARAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No scheme for industrial development, district-wise, has been launched or proposed to be launched. The Government of India is implementing package of incentives for the special category States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and for the States of the North East including Sikkim which help in enhancing industrial activities and generating more employment in these States. The Government has also launched a number of other schemes such as Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS), Transport Subsidy scheme, Industrial Park Scheme etc. to provide financial assistance/concessions to the industries in other States as well. Besides, various other Departments of the Government of India are also implementing a number of schemes for generating employment and development of backward areas such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Bharat Nirman, Backward Regions Grant Fund etc.

Workers covered under E.S.I. and Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana

2834. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees/workers covered under Employees Insurance Act, 1948 as on 31.03.2008;

(b) the number of employees/workers enjoyed benefits of E.S.I. during 2005-06 to 2007-08 (year-wise); and

(c) the number of employees covered under 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' as on 31.03.2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): As on 31.03.2008, a total of 1,11,80,886 employees/workers are covered under Employees State Insurance Act, 1948.

(b) Year	No. of Employees who availed medical benefits	No. of Employees who availed medical benefits
2005-06	38,42,414	86,45,431
2006-07	36,56,726	89,99,609
2007-08	38,62,560	85,70,055

(c) As on 31.03.2009, 2731 employees have availed benefits under the 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana'.

Construction workers covered by ESIC and EPF Act

2835. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any statistics of construction workers working in the country State-wise and gender-wise;

(b) whether construction workers are covered under the ESIC and EPF Acts, if not, the reason therefor; and

(c) the total number construction workers engaged for Delhi Metro and the Commonwealth Games sites and which Government is the appropriate Government for these construction workers of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) As per estimates of National Sample Survey (2004-2005) about 25.71 million building and other construction workers are estimated in India. State-wise and gender-wise details are not maintained. However, State-wise and gender-wise details of construction workers as given in the Census of India 2001 are enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

The construction workers who are employed in an establishment covered under the EPF & MP Act, 1952 and eligible for membership are covered.

The construction workers working at construction site are not covered under the ESI Act, 1948. However, construction workers working within a factory covered under the Act are eligible for cover for the limited period when they are working in that factory. The power to extend the Scheme to any other establishments (other than factories) lies with the concerned State Governments. None of the State Governments have, so far, extended the Scheme to construction workers. The main reason for non-coverage of these workers is that they are mostly migratory and move on to some other site as the construction project is completed. One of the pre-condition for extending ESI Act to any area is provision of infrastructure for medical care and if a dispensary is set-up at an area where construction work is going on and workers move out from that area after the project is completed, the infrastructure will become unutilized and infructuous.